NOV 12 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

ABSTRACT

Compositions and methods are provided for treating diseases associated with abnormal cell proliferation such as cancer by restoring inherent tumor-suppressing functions of neoplastic cells through DNA hypomethylation. The method comprises: delivering to a patient suffering from cancer a therapeutically effective amount of a DNA methylation inhibitor such as decitabine, in combination with an effective amount of an anti-neoplastic agent whose activity as an anti-neoplastic agent in vivo is adversely affected by aberrant DNA methylation. The anti-neoplastic agent is preferably a biologic agent such as an interleukin.